

CONF

63-6203

6 August 1963

Patrick McCone

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, President's Foreign
Intelligence Advisory Board

SUBJECT : The Alsop Article

1. Mr. McCone has requested that I supplement the information which I have already provided you about the origin of the Alsop article with the following facts.

2. Mr. McCone was advised well in advance of the interviews by Stewart Alsop that he intended to write an article around the "McNamara conflict." Mr. McCone at first refused to be interviewed, but finally granted an interview when Alsop told him that his editors had ordered him to write an article and that he had no alternative. Mr. McCone adds the following: "It is to be noted that Bundy and Gilpatric and I myself went to great pains to explain the interrelationship of DIA and CIA and to persuade Alsop that his thesis was incorrect and invalid. However, Alsop totally ignored the facts given him in the respective interviews. When I challenged him on this after the article had appeared, he stated that he knew he was right irrespective of the statements by the three of us as he had information to corroborate his opinion from a very large number of sources at lower levels."

(Signed) Lyman B. Kirkpatrick

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick
Executive Director

LBK:drm

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1 August 63

Memorandum for Mr. Elder

Concerning the communication to Clark Clifford on the Stewart Alsop article, I think we should give Clifford a full memorandum (but not the verbatim) of my discussion with Alsop and state that we know this memorandum accurately reflects the discussion that took place.

Also we should send memorandums on Gilpatric's and Bundy's discussions, which I believe we have in the file.

In transmitting the above, I would like the letter to say that Alsop informed me well in advance of the interviews, that he intended to write the article around the "McNamara conflict". I refused the interview at first, but finally granted it when Alsop told me that his editors had ordered him to write an article, and he had no alternative.

It is to be noted that Bundy and Gilpatric and I myself went to great pains to explain the inter-relationship of DIA and CIA and to persuade Alsop that his thesis was incorrect and invalid. However, Alsop totally ignored the facts given him in the respective interviews. When I challenged him on this after the article had appeared, he stated that he knew he was right irrespective of the statements by the three of us as he had information to corroborate his opinion from a very large number of sources at lower levels. -- Note: I presume these are both in CIA and DOD as he has access to a great many people in both organizations.

It might be well to touch base with both Gilpatric and Bundy in answering this, although I frankly do not think there is any great significance to the inquiry.

JAM